

SS SB 219 -- VETERANS RECOGNITION

SPONSOR: Steelman (Smith, 14)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs by a vote of 17 to 0.

This substitute allows any Korean Conflict veteran who served on active duty between June 27, 1950, and January 31, 1955, who was honorably discharged, and who resides in Missouri to receive a medallion, medal, and a certificate of appreciation. The Adjutant General will determine those persons who are eligible for the award. Applications may be filed during calendar year 2004. Any veteran, spouse, or eldest living survivor of a deceased veteran who meets the qualifications outlined in the substitute may apply for a Korean Conflict medallion, medal, and a certificate. The Korean Conflict Veterans' Recognition Award Fund is created and must be used to fund the design, manufacture, and distribution of the medallions, medals, and certificates.

The substitute allows the Missouri Veterans Commission to expend funds from the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund in order to pay for the Korean Conflict Medallion Program.

Currently, any funds remaining from the medals, medallions, and certificates are to be utilized to pay for buglers at the burial of veterans. The substitute removes that provision and states that the moneys will not be transferred to any other fund and must only be utilized for the awarding of future medals, medallions, and certificates in recognition of service in the armed forces.

Further, the substitute extends the World War II Medallion Program from July 1, 2003, to July 1, 2004, and allows the eldest living survivor of a deceased veteran to apply for a medallion.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost to the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund of \$839,616 in FY 2004, \$818,593 in FY 2005, and \$0 in FY 2006.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the substitute will recognize Korean veterans for their military service. The program for World War II veterans is already in place and can also take care of the Korean recognition program. The funds are also available because the World War II program did not use all of its funding.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Steelman's office; and General George D. Shull.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Steve Bauer, Legislative Analyst